

DrExam™ Part B MRCS OSCE Revision Guide Book 1: Applied Surgical Science & Critical Care, Anatomy & Surgical Pathology, Surgical Skills and Patient Safety

BH MIRANDA, K ASAAD, SP KAY

EXTENT P/H	456 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£29.99 9781907471056
PUBLISHER	Libri (Faringdon, Oxfordshire), 2010
REVIEWER	Karen Nugent
STAR RATING	★★★★

DrExam™ Part B MRCS OSCE Revision Guide Book 2: Clinical Examination, Communication Skills & History Taking

BH MIRANDA, K ASAAD, SP KAY

EXTENT P/H	264 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£29.99 9781907471063
PUBLISHER	Libri (Faringdon, Oxfordshire), 2010
REVIEWER	Karen Nugent
STAR RATING	★★★★

These two comprehensive books combine to cover all aspects of the MRCS exam. They are well written using a team of authors and include a very useful introductory part explaining the format of the exam and additional tips. The chapters are laid out with facts, aides-memoirs and mnemonics, as well as question and answer sections. Unfortunately the answer is written directly beneath the question, which makes it more difficult for the trainee to test him or herself using this book. The tables are well laid out with consistency of labelling and presentation in both books. The diagrams are clear and well laid out; the cadaveric dissections are also extremely useful within the anatomy section. It is an up-to-date textbook and there is an additional DVD with the revision part B MRCS OSCE clinical exams, which is also well presented and easy to use.

I found the presentation and amount of detail on some pages overwhelming and I would like to see questions separate from the answers so that the candidate or reader could question his or her own ability before seeing the results. However, the breadth of knowledge is good and the books represent the requirements for the present MRCS.

Septic Bone and Joint Surgery

REINHARD SCHNETTLER, HANS-ULRICH STEINAU

EXTENT P/H	328 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£136.99 9783131490315
PUBLISHER	Thieme (Stuttgart), 2010
REVIEWER	Fares Haddad
STAR RATING	★★★

This is an easy-to-read textbook with practical notes, tips, tricks and pitfalls highlighted in colour-coded boxes and numerous case studies. It is beautifully illustrated with more than 500 high-quality radiographic images and prints arranged as composites to provide a clear, pictorial account of the subject. These can be used in association with the text and as a revision tool.

The chapters are written by authors from different backgrounds and no clear effort has been made to link these chapters together, which results in some overlap and repetition; sometimes new data are introduced in later chapters that should have been discussed earlier.

From a contents point of view, the book is comprehensive in covering most aspects of diagnosis and treatment. However, it falls short with histopathologic diagnosis, which is almost neglected, whereas great emphasis has been given to diagnostic imaging. Sometimes one may question the benefits for an orthopaedic surgeon of detailed technical aspects of different imaging modalities.

The references are up to date. However, it would have been more helpful if they were referred to in the text in order to differentiate between the authors' preferences and evidence from the literature.

In conclusion, this accessible textbook provides good coverage of basic concepts; it occasionally lacks uniformity, organisation of ideas and evidence to support claims. Though it is not as comprehensive as it would appear, it is an ideal volume for the young orthopaedic surgeon who is starting out in the management of infection, or as a primer for someone who is coming to a stage in their career where he or she has to manage more infections or who needs to be re-acquainted with the basic principles.